

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6759

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GW

SUBJECT: STRAUSS LAMBASTES DETENTE, BLAMES SCHMIDT FOR FRG'S
FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICY SHORTCOMINGS, AND CALLS FOR ALTERATION
OF POLISH AGREEMENTS.

1. SUMMARY: IN THREE-HOUR ASH-WEDNESDAY SPEECH BEFORE MORE
THAN 5,000 PERSONS IN PASSAU'S NIBELUNGENHALLE, CSU CHAIRMAN
FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS DELIVERED BLISTERING ATTACK ON FOREIGN
AND DOMESTIC POLICIES OF SPD-FDP COALITION AND HELMUT SCHMIDT'S
PERFORMANCE AS CHANCELLOR, EMPHASIZING DISADVANTAGES OF DETENTE
TO FRG AND WEST, COALITION'S ALLEGEDLY INEPT MANAGEMENT OF
ECONOMY, AND GROWING DANGER OF MARXIST INFLUENCE WITHIN SPD.
STRAUSS CONTRASTED PRESIDENT FORD'S UNWILLINGNESS TO ENDORSE
USE OF WORD "DETENTE" TO DESCRIBE PRESENT U.S. POLICY TOWARD
USSR WITH SCHMIDT'S MARCH 2 STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD NOT RPT
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DESCRIBE DETENTE POLICY AS FAILUE. ALTHOUGH HE CRITI-

CIZED POLISH AGREEMENTS HARSHLY AND CALLED FOR THEIR "ALTERATION", HE DID NOT RPT NOT RULE OUT CHANGE IN CSU POSITION IF APPROPRIATE ALTERATIONS WERE MADE. SPEECH MARKED A SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURE IN STRAUSS' CAMPAIGN TACTICS AS STRAUSS FOR FIRST TIME PLACED CONSIDERABLE BLAME ON CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT PERSONALLY FOR COALITION'S ALLEGEDLY UNSUCCESSFUL DETENTE POLICY, ESPECIALLY "UNSATISFACTORY" POLISH AGREEMENTS, AS WELL AS ALLEGED MISMANAGEMENT OF ECONOMY. STRAUSS MADE ONLY ONE INDIRECT REFERENCE TO U.S. SENATE'S INVESTIGATION OF LOCKHEED ET AL. END SUMMARY.

2. DETENTE - STRAUSS CRITICIZED DETENTE POLICY OF FRG AND ITS ALLIES ACROSS BOARD REFERRING TO WHAT HE REGARDS AS TOTALLY NEGATIVE EFFECT OF CSCE FINAL DOCUMENT ON WESTERN INTERESTS, AND POINTING FINGER AT SOVIET AND CUBAN AGGRESSION IN ANGOLA (WHICH STRAUSS CLAIMED CONSTITUTED THREAT TO CAPE ROUTE), SOVIET WEAPONS SHIPMENTS AND DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT TO ALGERIA IN ITS DISPUTE WITH MOROCCO OVER SPANISH SAHARA, AND ABOVE ALL UNSATISFACTORY NATURE OF POLISH-FRG AGREEMENTS. ON TWO OCCASIONS HE REFERRED TO PRESIDENT FORD'S UNWILLINGNESS TO PIN LABEL OF "DETENTE" ON PRESENT U.S. POLICY TOWARD USSR, SUGGESTING THAT COALITION SHOULD USE IT AS YARDSTICK TO RE-EVALUATE ITS "OSTPOLITIK." STRAUSS DEPLORED WEST'S FAILURE TO RESPOND TO PLEAS FOR ASSISTANCE OF PRO-WEST FACTIONS IN ANGOLA, BUT DID NOT RPT NOT CRITICIZE ANY SPECIFIC ASPECT OF U.S. POLICY TOWARD USSR.

3. POLISH AGREEMENTS - STRAUSS CRITICIZED SCHMIDT PERSONALLY FOR CONCLUDING HIGHLY UNSATISFACTORY POLISH AGREEMENTS, AND, READING FROM PREPARED TEXT, CALLED FOR FOOL-PROOF VERIFICATION OF NUMBER OF ETHNIC GERMANS IN POLAND AS WELL AS IRONCLAD GUARANTEES UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW THAT GERMANS DESIRING TO EMIGRATE WOULD BE PERMITTED TO DO SO. PREPARED TEXT SEEMED DESIGNED TO LEAVE OPEN POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE IN POSITION OF CSU ON AGREEMENTS IN EVENT POLES SHOULD ADOPT FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE WITH REGARD TO CDU-CSU OBJECTIONS. (N.B. - CSU DID NOT RPT NOT RELEASE EITHER TEXT OR SUMMARY OF THIS PORTION OF STRAUSS' SPEECH.)

4. COALITION'S ECONOMIC POLICIES - STRAUSS DEVOTED LARGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEGMENT OF SPEECH TO DETAILED INVENTORY OF ALLEGED SHORTCOMINGS OF COALITION'S ECONOMIC POLICY, REPEATEDLY LINKING THESE SHORTCOMINGS TO SCHMIDT PERSONALLY.

5. LEFTIST INFLUENCE IN SPD - REHASHING THEME OF GROWING MARXIST INFLUENCE IN SPD, ESPECIALLY AMONG JUSO'S, STRAUSS FORESAW DANGER OF LONG-TERM DRIFT TOWARD PEOPLE'S FRONT IN FRG AS WELL AS "SOCIALIST EUROPE." HE QUOTED WEHNER AS

ALLEGEDLY SAYING THAT SPD DESIRED CHANGES IN "FUNDAMENTAL STRUCTURE" OF FRG AND THAT SPD WOULD GET RID OF SCHMIDT WHEN IT NO LONGER NEEDED HIM. HE TOOK SEVERAL POT SHOTS AT BRANDT, STATING INTER ALIA BRANDT WAS SO FAR TO LEFT THAT "ONLY THE WALL IS TO THE LEFT OF HIM."

6. LOCKHEED - STRAUSS MADE ONLY ONE INDIRECT ALLUSION TO U.S. SENATE INVESTIGATIONS OF LOCHEED, CALLING FOR U.S. FINALLY TO PUT AN END TO "WEEKLY PASSION PLAYS."

7. COMMENT: NOT SURPRISINGLY, SECRETARY GENERAL TANDLER, IN BRIEF REMARK TO AUDIENCE FOLLOWING STRAUSS SPEECH, FORMALLY DECLARED THAT SPEECH MARKED OPENING OF "FIRST PHASE" OF CSU'S BUNDESTAG ELECTION CAMPAIGN. ALTHOUGH STRAUSS SEEMED TO TAKE PAINS TO AVOID DRAWING DISTINCTION BETWEEN CDU AND CSU VIEWS ON MAJOR ISSUES, HE MADE NO RPT NO REFERENCE TO CDU/CSU CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE KOHL. THEREFORE DEGREE TO WHICH STRAUSS' STATEMENTS REFLECT COMMON STRATEGY OF CDU-CSU LEADERSHIP TEAM IS NOT RPT NOT PRESENTLY CLEAR. IT SEEMS NOTEWORTHY THAT DESPITE HIS SHARP ATTACKS IN COALITION POLICIES, STRAUSS REFRAINED FROM CRITICIZING FDP AS A PARTY.
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